MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

4 SEPTEMBER 1981

Iran

Majlis Session--Tehran radio reported that the Majlis approved Prime Minister Mohammad Reza Mahdavi-Kani's new Cabinet, with 170 deputies voting in favor, 4 against and 4 abstentions. Mahdavi-Kani spoke before the vote, telling the deputies that the administration must centralize its power structure to coordinate the activities of different authorities and improve security. In his remarks, broadcast by the radio, he said the nation needs unity and harmony to combat its three main problems: the war, internal security and the economy. He also asserted that the police department must be reconstructed. While he urged the deputies to approve the Cabinet "without further debate," AFP noted that the Majlis rejected this request and held a debate on the composition of the Cabinet during which some speakers criticized Mahdavi-Kani's record as interior minister and condemned his chosen successor, Tehran Mayor Kamaleddin Nikravesh.

Clashes, Killings--Tehran radio reported that revolution guards killed seven Mojahedin-e Khalq supporters during an 8-hour overnight battle in southern Tehran. The shoot-our ended early on 3 September when the guards captured three Mojahedin and stormed the rebel-occupied house. According to AFP, six guards were wounded in the clash. Tehran radio also reported that three "terrorist agents" had been killed in an exchange with revolution guards in Tehran. AFP, citing ETTELA'AT, noted the killing of a cleric in Rasht on 1 September.

Nabavi on Assassinations--Minister of State for Executive Affairs Behzad Nabavi said in an interview carried by Tehran radio that it is clear that the Mojahedin-e Khalq should be held responsible for the 30 August bombing of the Prime Ministry building.

PLO Diplomacy--AFP cited an interview in the Lebanese paper AN-NAHAR in which Mojahedin-e Khalq leader Mas'ud Rajavi expressed his desire to meet with PLO Executive Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and confirmed that he recently met with Fatah Central Committee member Hani al-Hasan and discussed ways of ending the "bloodbath" in Iran. An official PLO spokesman's statement, carried by the clandestine Voice of Palestine radio, said Al-Hasan is currently on sick leave and therefore is not authorized to carry out official duties. Any meetings he might have had would have been a result of his "personal initiative," the statement noted, adding that he has been "recalled" for this reason.

Bani-Sadr on Khomeyni--AFP reported a Danish daily POLITIKEN interview with former President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr in which he said Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni is more dangerous to Iran dead than alive because his death could lead to war and the end of Iran. Bani-Sadr added that he would not "liquidate" Khomeyni, even if he could. He also said Ayatollah Khomeyni prefers the United States to the USSR but he maintains his anti-American stand because he believes Iranians expect it of him.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Baghdad Voice of Masses radio carried an Iraqi Armed Forces communique on the fighting in Iran's Sar-e Pol-e Zahab and Susangerd regions over the past 3 days. It claimed Iraqi forces had inflicted losses on the Iranians totaling more than 5,000 killed and 136 tanks and armored personnel carriers plus 35 rocket launchers destroyed. Meanwhile, Tehran radio broadcast an armed forces communique claiming Iranian forces had killed between 300 and 400 enemy troops and had knocked out 12 Iraqi tanks on the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab front and that 32 enemy tanks had been destroyed and 100 Iraqis had been killed west of Ahvaz. The radio also reported that Iran had destroyed 12 tanks and had killed 200 of the enemy on the Karkheh Kur front and that a fourth bridge over the Karkheh Kur River had been captured from the enemy.

Turkey

ANATOLIA reported that the Foreign Ministry denied a report attributed to an unnamed foreign news agency by a Turkish daily that Iranian Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani has accused Turkey of involvement in the recent bombing of the Prime Ministry building.

Egypt

MENA reported the promulgation of a decree withdrawing the licenses of several Muslim, Christian and opposition publications that contributed to recent sectarian unrest. Citing AL-AHRAM, MENA said that 553 were arrested on 2-3 September for promoting disturbances and noted that President Anwar as-Sadat will address a joint session of the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council on 5 August concerning the details of the "sectarian sedition plots." The paper added that while Christian and Muslim religious fanatics comprise the bulk of those arrested, a small number of nonreligious political figures were also taken into custody for their collaboration with the fanatics. MENA also reviewed an AL-AHRAM editorial that said the plotters had nothing in common except a plan to strike at national unity and social peace. An AL-JUMHURIYAH editorial subsequently cited by MENA said the arrest of the perpetrators reflects the Egyptian people's will.

Lebanon

Beirut radio carried an Arab followup committee statement that said the committee held several meetings on 3-4 September at the Lebanese Presidential Palace in B'abda, with President Ilyas Sarkis, Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan, Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi and the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Syria and Kuwait in attendance. The statement said that after noting the commitment of the Lebanese forces, the National Movement and the Amal Movement to consolidate the cease-fire, the committee decided to ban the entry into Lebanon of arms and ammunition for all but the legitimate authorities and to form a supervisory body, in which the Lebanese state, the Arab League General Secretariat and the states participating in the followup committee would be represented, for the purpose of ensuring the ban's effective implementation. The committee also decided to take the steps necessary to reopen the roads between the two parts of Beirut and to meet again on 7 November.

Syria

According to Baghdad radio, a booby-trapped automobile exploded near the Syrian Air Force Command in Damascus, killing at least 20 persons and wounding another 50. Monitored Syrian media have not reported the bombing.

Saudi Arabia

Riyadh radio reported that a "responsible Saudi spokesman" has denied recent reports by Israeli and Egyptian news media that Israeli Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres has held talks with any Saudi official on reaching an agreement between Israel and Saudi Arabia on the Red Sea. The spokesman called Peres' statement completely fabricated and untrue.

Israel

Citing a "senior Jerusalem source," Jerusalem radio said that when Prime Minister Menahem Begin travels to Washington for talks next week, he will ask for Washington's "understanding" should Israel decide to execute a preemptive strike against "terrorists" who are reinforcing their positions in southern Lebanon with a view to renewing hostilities at a convenient time.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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SANGIN ADDRESS PASHTU-BALUCHI DAY CEREMONY

LD010948 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 31 Aug 81

[Speech by Adina Sangin, member of the Revolutionary Council and mayor of Kabul, at the 31 August ceremony marking Pashtun-Baluchi National Day--recorded]

[Text] With the permission of the audience and the participants in the Pashtun and Baluchi National Day: Our Pashtun and Baluchi brothers celebrate their National Day on 31 August every year. This is considered a day of common struggle of these two brotherly people for their unity and solidarity and represents the struggle for a democratic life and against every kind of oppression and prejudice. Our Pashtun and Baluchi brothers are very proud of their struggle against British colonialism, during which they demonstrated unforgettable heroism and made innumerable sacrifices. Colonialism and imperialism, headed by U.S. imperialism, have always tried to find or create a rift between our Pashtun and Baluchi brothers. However, the courageous Pashtuns and Baluchis have very cleverly foiled all of colonialism's and imperialism's conspiracies and have always maintained their unity. This National Day marks the good understanding, brotherhood and cooperation between them and similarly between the Pashtuns and Baluchis and other peoples of the world. With understanding, brotherhood and peace, societies and nations will be able to advance and develop, solve life's problems and reach those lofty stages that are suitable to the character of today's civilized and freedom-loving man.

Today people of our region are continuing their struggle to have a free and comfortable life. Imperialism and reaction have always tried to create discord and disunity among the societies and nations of the world. But experience shows that if there is understanding between the peoples and nations of the region and the world and if the spirit of brotherhood and equality is strong among the toilers, then the intrigues and conspiracies of the enemies of humanity, however strong they may be, will fail. The National Day of the Pashtuns and Baluchis is a day of strengthening unity, love and solidarity among the people. That is why we say this is a day for maintaining the good life of our Pashtun and Baluchi brothers and all Moslem people of Pakistan.

The DRA Government supports peace and understanding in the region and the world. We know that under the present circumstances, brotherhood and cooperation will (?guarantee) the success of our toiling people. Imperialism will never be able to put into practice its imperialist intrigues against those who are united and display brotherhood and friendship. Our national democratic state, in pursuance of its peaceful policy, firmly supports the spread of understanding in the region and the world and has taken great practical steps on this path and has expressed its permanent readiness to continue to do so. Since the first day of the Sawr Revolution and its new development stage, the DRA has continued its efforts to realize its sacred hope for peace and solidarity.

Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, referring to the state's policy in his historic speech on 27 December 1979 in connection with relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan and our Pashtun and Baluchi brothers, very clearly, sincerely and truthfully said: Afghanistan and Pakistan have unbreakable, brotherly links with each other. The Afghan Government will make every effort to solve all differences and misunderstanding with the responsible authorities in Pakistan through friendly talks.

The DRA Council of Ministers, in its statement of 24 August 1981, once again clearly and sincerely spoke of the settlement of all differences with neighboring countries. It is obvious and known to all the people of the world that our national-democratic state, in its official documents, statements, announcements and media, has granted special importance to the normalization of relations with the neighboring countries. However, we regretfully say that as of now Pakistan has not made a satisfactory and positive reply to the DRA Government's peaceful proposals. Counterrevolutionary bands, which have disrupted the life of our Pashtuns and Baluchis, have been sent to our country from Pakistan to disrupt the peaceful and normal life of our toiling and oppressed people, kill innocent people, destroy property and (?set fire to mosques and schools). These have nothing to do with the principles of good-neighborliness. As far as we are concerned, we express once again sincerely and truthfully our wish for peace. I end my speech with the hope of attaining this lofty aspiration and of strengthening peace and security in the world. I hope the people will be prosperous.

'FREEDOM FIGHTERS' REPEL SOVIETS IN BAGHLAN

GF031147 Karachi MASHRIQ in Urdu 29 Aug 81 p 1

[28 August PPI report from Quetta: "Freedom Fighters Encircle and Kill Soviet Paratroops"]

[Text] The Afghan Army, which is backed by the USSR, has mounted several strong attacks on camps of freedom fighters in Baghlan Province with the help of tanks, MiG planes and helicopter gunships. However, the freedom fighters, with great bravery and valor, have repelled all the attacks and inflicted heavy losses on the enemy Afghan troops.

According to a press release by the Hezb-e Eslami, the freedom fighters downed one helicopter gunship and destroyed 11 tanks. The freedom fighters claimed they had encircled and killed a great number of enemy paratroopers who were dropped in Baghlan Province. The guerrillas were led by Mawlavi Mohammad Gul.

The press release said the Afghan Army has begun attacking the northern provinces on a big scale. However, the freedom fighters' position is so strong that the Afghan troops have faced defeat every time. In the southern areas the freedom fighters are being led by Mawlave Mohammed Khalis himself, who has scored several victories against the enemy.

Reports received from across the border indicate that bitter fighting is in progress in Qandahar, the next biggest city of Afghanistan. The freedom fighters are inflicting heavy losses on the enemy.

KESHTMAND-USSR OFFICIAL DISCUSS IRRIGATION MATTERS

LD031754 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 3 Sep 81

[Text] Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the Council of the Ministers, this afternoon received Polad-Zade, first deputy minister of the USSR Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources, and his entourage.

Dr Raz Mohammad Paktin, minister of water and power, and the deputy minister of irrigation were present. They spoke about irrigation matters in this meeting.

AGHA SHAHI COMMENTS ON INDEPENDENT FOREIGN POLICY

BK040642 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 3 Sep 81

[Text] Foreign Minister Agha Shahi has said during the past 4 years, Pakistan's foreign policy has won general recognition for its independent and principled character. In an interview with daily SIYASAT of Lahore, he said it is a policy dedicated to the promotion of peace and stability in the region and the world and to safeguard the vital security and economic interests of Pakistan. He said the specific character and orientation of the foreign policy of any country is determined by the leadership at the top. President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has devoted a great deal of his time, (?thought) and energy to this field.

Explaining the various facets of the country's foreign policy, the foreign minister recalled that in 1979 Pakistan took the initiative on the dissolution of CENTO and was formally admitted to the Nonaligned Movement. He said Pakistan's contribution to the just Palestinian cause, the upholding of Arab rights and efforts against the Israeli annexation of Al-Quds were well known as also support to the national liberation movements in southern Africa notedly in relation to Zimbabwe and Namibia.

Our principled stand against foreign military intervention in Afghanistan has won world acclaim and support. Pakistan, he added, had come to be acknowledged as being among the most articulate exponents of a more just international economic order and it had played a prominent role in all the efforts of the developing countries to promote their collective interests.

Agha Shahi said Pakistan is trying its best to develop a modus vivendi with its neighbors on the basis of principles of peaceful coexistence, instead of placing itself under the sphere of influence of one or another of its neighbors.

Replying to a question, the foreign minister said bilateral relations with Moscow in the practical field have been maintained as is reflected in the continuing growth in economic and commercial cooperation. Whatever strain had developed had arisen out of the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan which constituted a violation of the fundamental principles of state relations.

The foreign minister pointed out that they had resisted heavy pressure from a superpower designed to force them to give up their independent peaceful nuclear program. He pointed out that as an ideological state, Pakistan has laid stress in developing close ties with Muslim countries.

Replying to another question, the foreign minister said Iran is a fraternal neighbor and they have no bilateral problem. Pakistan's relations with Iran are bound to grow as both sides recognize the geopolitical importance of the closest possible ties.

About the Afghan refugees, he said Pakistan has given them shelter as an Islamic and humanitarian duty. The people of Pakistan have shown their traditional hospitality and the government has mobilized available resources to assist these people in distress. The international community is helping them to bear the economic burden to sustain them. They hoped the Afghan refugees would return to their homes and appropriate conditions were created that would inspire confidence among them.

The foreign minister said Pakistan, within the limits of its resources and with the financial assistance of friendly Islamic countries, is trying to replace its obsolete military equipment. The country's defense capability would be significantly enhanced when it had been received and absorbed. In the meantime, he added, they are trying to strengthen their security through political moves by mobilizing international support.

PAPER NOTES 'FLEXIBILITY' IN SOVIET ATTITUDE

GF031314 Karachi MASHRIQ in Urdu 30 Aug 81 p 3

[Editorial: "Pakistani-Soviet Relations"]

[Text] President Ziaul Haq has said that recent talks between Pakistan and the Soviet Union were useful and that some flexibility in the Soviet Union's attitude was observed. He has also said that the Soviet Union is a world power and is also our neighbor. He added that it is essential, in view of Pakistan's geographical situation, that views be exchanged with the Soviet Union on some basic and important issues. Hence, talks were held with Deputy Foreign Minister Firyubin on various matters. The president said the talks were positive and should help improve bilateral relations.

The Soviet deputy foreign minister visited Islamabad at the invitation of the Pakistani Government and held detailed discussions with the president and Foreign Minister Agha Shahi. They discussed matters of mutual interest and the regional situation. As far as Pakistan is concerned, it has always desired good relations with all countries. In this connection, great progress has been made in its relations with the Soviet Union during the past 2 decades. Bilateral trade has increased and the Karachi steel mill and the Guddu thermal powerplant have been completed with Soviet assistance.

In the past, Pakistan was a member of some military pacts to which the Soviet rulers had shown some reaction. However, the government of President Gen Ziaul Haq has separated itself from the military pacts and has adopted an independent foreign policy. Moreover, by joining the Nonaligned Movement it has completely isolated itself from the interaction of the major powers. It has adopted a policy of peaceful coexistence and noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries. This new trend has brought about a basic change in Pakistan's foreign policy and has reduced Pakistani-Soviet differences.

However, the Soviet Union brought about a basic change in the region's geographical and political situation with its military occupation of Afghanistan in early December 1979. Pakistan was affected, as more than 2 million Afghan refugees crossed the border into Pakistan to save their lives and honor. The crisis in Afghanistan has also jeopardized the security of several countries in the region. On this issue, Pakistan has adopted the just stand that Soviet forces should unconditionally leave Afghanistan and that Afghanistan's Islamic and neutral position should be restored. The Afghan people should be allowed to choose their own type of government. This is the only way the Afghan refugees will be able to return home honorably.

Pakistan's policy has been approved by almost all civilized and justice-loving nations, and this issue is expected to gain much importance at the next UN General Assembly session. In this regard, the Soviet deputy foreign minister's recent visit to Pakistan becomes even more important, as the Pakistani president's statements have shown. His statements are very encouraging at this juncture.

It is also encouraging to note that there appears to be some flexibility in the Afghan Government's attitude as well. The Pakistani-Soviet discussions have been quite successful, and it is expected that the Soviet Union will also agree to accept a just solution to the Afghan problem and that a political solution to the problem will indeed be found. This will not only help peace and security in the region but will also pave the way for further improvement in Pakistani-Soviet relations.

MAHDAVI-KANI MAJLIS SPEECH ON SECURITY, CABINET

LD031410 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1115 GMT 3 Sep 81

[Speech by Prime Minister Mohammad Reza Mahdavi-Kani delivered at the 3 September open session of the Majlis--recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. This revolution is unique in the world. This revolution shows great sacrifices and coordination between the imam and the nation. As we move forward in this revolution, we must certainly tolerate more dangers. This place is not a conference room to discuss issues from scientific and historical points of view. But this was experienced and it is said that at the time of the reappearance of the imam of the era, may God's peace and benedictions be upon him, the world will be filled with tyranny before the return of justice. This does not mean that all the people on earth will become tyrants, it means that people will wake up and search for justice and at the same time the enemy will increase his pressure. The more the people become alert and the more they increase their knowledge, the more the enemy will increase his pressure and infiltration. Tyranny will spread to places which were free from it before.

We were unaware and in a dream world 50 years ago. Most of the people were relaxing under warm korsis [a short-legged table covered with blankets] eating their nutritious food and were happy with their comfortable lives. They used to say "We are very happy and we do not know what is happening in the world." Right at that time our enemies were plundering us and they did not bother us because we were not alert. But gradually our people woke up and at the same time the enemy increased his pressure. The more alert we became and the more we learned about martyrdom and were prepared to make sacrifices and fight against the enemies of Islam and Iran, the more they increased their pressure. Eventually we reached the stage where we toppled the enemy.

That was the first stage; now we must put up with some pressure in the second stage. In this movement we are going to lose some dear ones, as we lost our dear Brother Raja'i.

The enemy increased his pressure; this shows that we are moving forward. They would not have assembled forces against us if we were weak. Yet they are spreading rumors that we are weak. It is not true; we are very strong and we are going to become stronger every day. That is why the forces of the left and right have all risen against us both inside the country and abroad. Therefore, in this home of the nation, I would like to announce to the dear nation of Iran and our dear compatriots that our government is a powerful government; because, as the late Raja'i said, our government has 36 million supporters. Part of this support was shown by the crowd yesterday. The presence of the crowd was so great that even foreign radios, contrary to their previous attitudes, announced that opponent groups should only be recognized as terrorist groups and they cannot say that they have any place in the Iranian nation. This was a confession made by our enemy.

Well, they passed away and I happened to be chosen. A proverb says "Be prepared to do good work everyday," and I am prepared. I have nothing to fear, because I believe in God's support. I believe in God's support, not in myself. We shall not rely on ourselves.

During the early days, when I came to the committee, I was only a prayer leader. I could only lead prayers. But with the succor of God, contrary to the opinion of some of our friends--who said something critical about my job--I managed the committee very well.

I don't want to speak at length. You have your own approach and criticism for the state police, I have the same. But I do not believe that such an approach toward the police could result in making the police active. I have found that with the expression of appreciation one can achieve a better result in making the police active, instead of such actions which could lead to their disappointment.

Of course, the police department must be reconstructed. We are doing this already, and hope that with our new minister of the interior and his ability, together with the forthcoming changes in the police department and the gendarmerie, the situation will improve.

I would like to refer to another point before elaborating on the appointments of two new members to the Cabinet.

I had one belief, right from the start of the revolution, to which I stick. That is that in the course of the revolution, concentration of power is essential. Although the constitution already divided the centers of power, the centers of decisionmaking are separated from each other from various points of view--from the legislative point of view, from the judicial point of view, from the executive point of view and even the foundations are separated from each other. You should accept that in a revolutionary society and in a country whose people staged a revolution, it is not possible to act and work [word indistinct]. Parts of these shortcomings that you are witnessing, especially in the field of security--my experience says--are the result of absence of the essential harmony and unity. I brought this to the attention of our late Brother Dr Bahonar. I advised him to promote harmony in the country. With unity and harmony of points of view and harmony in command, we would be able to establish security at this delicate time. If the revolution committees act independently, the guards act independently, the police act independently, the intelligence center acts independently, and we too act independently, then nothing will work.

I would like to ask the Majlis to add to the confidence it has accorded me, to its support for me--despite the fact that I myself was one of the founders of the revolution, and a member of the revolutionary foundations and their supporter, and still am, and I consider that these foundations require more reinformcement in the first stage. Nevertheless, I stress the necessity of a united command and centralization; existing dispute, differences of opinions, must be removed. We have so many martyrs every single day--that is apart from those who are being martyred on the war fronts--they happen in Tehran and elsewhere. Sometimes, when I think about all this, I take pride in the fact that we see so much blood but do not get upset.

Therefore I would like to ask you, the honorable gentlemen and ladies as well as the revolutionary foundations and the Iranian nation, to maintain this unity and harmony. We hope that through such effort we will soon be able to bring normality back to the country.

There are three issues which we are facing. One is the question of war, which constitutes the most important issue; this government will pursue it. We have to bring an end to this issue soon; we have to (?take back our lands) and expel the enemy from our territory--this is our first priority. Our enemies who wish us to forget this are trying to create internal chaos, but we will not forget the war.

The second issue is the issue of internal security, which is a public request--the public is feeling this more than anything else--the public is so worried that the day before yesterday, a number of our sisters staged a 24-hour sit in in the Interior Ministry and were saying [words indistinct]. They wanted to help in any way they could--their sit in lasted more than 4 hours and they were not prepared to leave until a radio correspondent interviewed them; we talked to them, and finally satisifed them, promising that we will, God willing, with the help of you brothers and sisters, establish security.

The third issue is economic--this too, God willing, must be solved. No doubt, a revolution has shortcomings and we hope through our nation's patience and our efforts, some of these shortcomings will be removed by implementing urgent measures. Long-term programs will also be implemented, paving the road for the well-being of this nation.

As far as the new brother ministers are concerned, we added two new faces to the composition of the previous government. It was decided not to make any change in the composition of the government, and the policies of the previous one are to be pursued. For the time being we do not see the necessity for any change. Following the debates we had, we decided to appoint our brother Dr Seyyed Kamaleddin Nikravesh as interior minister. His past record includes religious activities and struggle both at home and abroad; he is among faces known to our Muslim people and is recognized by our Muslim brothers as a committed and devoted personality. During the period he was in Kohkiluyeh, he was active; of course, in those days there existed certain difficulties. When he came to the university he achieved success in the task of purging the university, to the extent that he made a lot of enemies and his firmness in the university was very interesting and useful when he became mayor of Tehran.

Our other brother is Mr Mohammad Hadinezhad-Hoseyniyan. He studied abroad and had religious activities there. After the revolution he returned home and made himself useful in various positions, the most important of which was working in the Foundation of the Oppressed. His tasks included the forming of those companies, ending old companies and creating new ones. He was very successful in his tasks. When I talked to him I found him a knowledgeable person, a committed Muslim and, we hope, in the Ministry of Roads--a ministry he is familiar with--he will be successful. We hope with the cooperation of the Ministry of Road's under secretaries he will be able to fill the gap left by our dear late Kalantari.

I would like to ask the Majlis to give its vote of confidence without further debate, so we can start work right away. Of course, it is up to you. If you give us your immediate vote of confidence, then we will be grateful; otherwise, we will wait for your decision.

MORE ON APPROVAL OF MAHDAVI-KANI CABINET

LD031202 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Sep 81

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, the Islamic Consultative Assembly held an open session today. The session was chaired by Hashemi-Rafsanjani and was attended by 187 deputies.

In today's session, the Majlis gave its vote of confidence to the government of Mr Mohammad Reza Mahdavi-Kani with 170 votes in favor, 4 against and 4 abstentions. Nine of the deputies did not participate in the voting. Following the outcome of the voting, Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani said briefly: We would like to extend our congratulations to Prime Minister Mahdavi-Kani and members of his government for the confidence the Majlis has accorded them. We hope this will be be a lasting confidence and the deputies will be able to support the government as firmly as today in the future--we also hope the government will succeed in satisfying the public, the Majlis and the imam.

According to our correspondent, at the outset of the Majlis debate concerning the composition of the Cabinet, Mr Mahdavi-Kani addressed the Majlis. The premier's speech will be broadcast at the conclusion of this newscast.

In today's session the credentials of Mr Mohammad Hoseyn Ahmadi and (Danesh Ashtiyani), Tafresh and (Ashtiyan) deputies, were ratified.

At the conclusion of today's session, the speaker announced there will be a Majlis summer recess of 2 weeks. The next open session of the Majlis following the summer recess will be held at 1500 on 19 September.

TEHRAN REPORTS KHAMENE'I ELECTION AS IRP HEAD

LD011352 [Editorial Report] Tehran Domestic Service in Persian at 1233 GMT reports without further elaboration during a reading of headlines in a press review: "JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI: Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i has been appointed unanimously by the Central Council to be secretary general of the Islamic Republican Party."

NABAVI ON GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS, BOMBING INCIDENT

LD031932 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Sep 81

[Interview granted by Minister of State for Executive Affairs Behzad Nabavi to Central News Unit correspondent on 3 September--place not given--recorded]

[Text] [Question] Mr Nabavi, we interviewed the prime minister yesterday. He said that the general elements of his programs were the same as those of martyr Bahonar's Cabinet. As minister of state for executive affairs, the man responsible for economic mobilization and the Economic Planning Commission, could you please comment on your plans, as to whether you will follow the previous ones or introduce new ones?

[Answer] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Obviously, the plans prepared for economic mobilization will not be altered, for practically the same brothers are pursuing this work. The course which is being followed, politically, culturally and economically, is the same course pursued by our martyred brothers. However, considering the recent incident, some delays have occurred. For instance, I myself could not attend two meetings on economic mobilization because of the recent problems, that is, our brothers' martyrdom. This is precisely one of the objectives of the counterrevolutionaries; they want to keep us from attending to our main task after the victory of the revolution, that is, to meet the oppressed people's needs. Everyday they try to postpone our dealing with this task. Fortunately, all our brothers are alert; they are prepared as much as possible and are trying to foil these attempts aimed at postponing the programs.

[Question] Mr Nabavi, do you not think that this tragic incident will cause stagnation in the country's current affairs?

[Answer] So far, it has not caused any; that is, not in anything specific. However, as I stated earlier, I could not attend two meetings on economic mobilization. One of these meetings concerned the economic council which was to have met on Tuesday and at which the important issue of rice was to be raised again. I had already spoken to our matryed Brother Raja'i in this connection and the issue was supposed to have been raised with the economic council. Regrettably, because of the incident, the meeting was not held. As a result, the meeting was postponed for 1 week. At any rate, none of the work will be postponed or delayed. The path set out by our dear brothers will, therefore, be pursued.

[Question] Mr Nabavi, on the evening after the incident, in an interview, you stated that it is not significant, you approached the issue very lightly. This raised some questions among the people. Please explain your reason for this sort of approach.

[Answer] Indeed, over the past few days many of our brothers and friends have criticized me personally for having treated the problem that evening in such a manner. Well, I was looking for an opportunity to explain the matter to our compatriots. As everyone knows, that particular interview took place at the Cabinet [as heard]. When I took part in that interview I was not in a good psychological state, for the interview took place exactly 2 hours after the incident. The matter was also raised at the Cabinet. The fact is that the next day an attack [against the Iraqi forces] which was actually launched yesterday, was to take place. We guessed at the time that the operation by the hyprocrites organization [Mojahedin-e Khalq] could also have had some relation to this attack for they could have received certain information about it from insiders. What we had in mind was to avoid overreacting to the matter so that our brothers at the battlefronts, God forbid, would not be weakened or doubtful, although we were certain they would not be.

[Question] In the course of our interview last night with Mr Mahdavi-Kani, he stated that a group has been assigned to investigate the matter. Can you please tell us about the investigations so far? Meanwhile, which group do you personally think was responsible for the bombing?

[Answer] As our Brother Mahdavi stated, the investigations are proceeding very well. As far as I know, the experts have completed their work. It has already been specified that the bomb weighed nearly 2 pounds; that it consisted of both incendiary and explosive substances. It was because of this that, despite the fact that the explosive charge was weak--the explosion was very weak--it was the fire which caused the damage and the casualties. Had it not been for the fire our three martyred brothers might have been rescued. As for the perpetrators of this incident, some people, both inside the prime minister's office and outside, have been arrested. [sentence indistinct]

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] What is clear is that the hypocrites organization should be considered responsible.

[Question] Their faction in London has issued a statement claiming responsibility. However, their leader in Paris stated the next day that he did not think the organization was responsible. How do you explain the contradition?

[Answer] Indeed, they followed the same line in connection with the bombing of the party's headquarters. Considering that these acts are criminal acts, in the past, political groups that these acts are criminal acts, in the past, political groups were ashamed of taking responsibility for them. As for now, they are playing a guessing game. If the act has favorable results they will take responsibility for it; otherwise, as demonstrated by the mass participation in the funeral processions throughout the country, they will not. So, this was a defeat for them.

KHOMEYNI RECEIVES FAMILIES OF RAJA'I, BAHONAR

GF031129 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 3 Sep 81

[Text] On receiving the families of the two martyrs, Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i and Mohammad Javad Bahonar, today, Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic, said: I do not know whether I should condole you on this bereavement or whether you should condole me. The two martyrs were committed to Islam and useful to society. The bereavement is alleviated by the fact that they were martyred in the cause of God, and God does not forget the reward of those who die for Him.

I hope we shall continue along the path of these two martyrs.

TEHRAN REPORTS 8-HOUR CLASH WITH MOJAHEDIN

LD031220 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Sep 81

[Text] According to a PARS report, seven hypocrites were killed and large quantities of arms and ammunition were seized during an 8-hour clash which began last night and continued until the early hours of this morning at a safe house of the hypocrites on Kerman Avenue in the Delgoshah area of southern Tehran. We owe this victory to the vigilance of our combatant Islamic nation, to the consistent efforts of our brother guards of the strike group of the Evin public prosecutor's office and to the revolution guards of the ninth district committee.

According to this report, the public prosecutor's operations unit announced: This clash was one of the most important operations to be carried out by the law enforcement forces in the past few days in the fight against the counterrevolutionary minigroups. Our brothers from the public prosecutor's strike group reconnoitered the area at 2100 yesterday and began operations an hour later. They met initial resistance from the hypocrites, which later collapsed as a result of the blows dealt them by the law enforcement forces and because of the capture of three of their number, including a woman and a girl. Our brother guards occupied the house within a few hours.

According to this report, the bodies of seven of the hypocrites, appreciable quantities of TNT, various kinds of weapons--including G-3's, bandoliers and heavy machineguns--and plans of the Prime Ministry building, law enforcement centers and revolutionary institutions were seized at the safe house.

In connection with the discovery of this safe house, one of the members of the Evin public prosecutor's strike group told PARS: This center was often used for meetings of influential members of the hypocrites group, whose members had probably taken part in many assassinations and bombing operations.

3 'TERRORISTS' KILLED IN CLASH WITH GUARDS

LD031306 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Sep 81

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, three terrorist agents armed with sidearms and grenades were killed and one of our guard brothers martyred this morning during a shootout between the occupants of a grey Peykan car and an Islamic Revolution Guards Corps patrol unit.

AFP: MUSAVI ADMITS SHORTAGE OF DIPLOMATS

NC032104 Paris AFP in English 2049 GMT 3 Sep 81

[Text] Tehran, 3 Sep (AFP)--Iranian Foreign Minister Hoseyn Musavi acknowledged today that his country's diplomatic staff was seriously undermanned as the result of between 600 and 700 dismissals since the founding of the Islamic Republic in 1979.

In an interview with the newspaper KEYHAN, the minister announced that in the short term, new diplomatic personnel would be recruited from "persons faithful to the Islamic revolution" even if they were not as yet "particularly strong in this specialty" of diplomacy.

He added that longer-term projects foresaw the training of officials "capable of acting as the voice of the Islamic revolution" abroad, following courses of political and ideological education and admission by way of special exams.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUES 623-625

623: Fighting at Fronts

LD031953 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Sep 81

[Communique 623 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] Yesterday morning the devotees of the ground forces and the other combatants, opening fire on and attacking the enemy positions in the west of the country, cleansed part of the heights in Sar-e Pol-e Zahab of the aggressive Iraqi forces occupying them, capturing these forces.

During these operations, our combatants killed or wounded a number of the enemy servicemen and took others prisoner. Intense fighting is continuing in this area with our powerful combatants enjoying fire superiority.

Yesterday exchanges of artillery and mortar fire continued sporadically on most of the country's western fronts. On the Meymak, Konjancham and Kan-e Sakht fronts, exchange of fire was more intense. On the Gilan-e Gharb, Dar Baluch and Tang-e Hajiyan fronts, the heroes of irregular warfare [militia unit under direction of the headquarters of irregular warfare] opened fire on the enemy positions and stopped the movements and acitivities of the Iraqi forces in these areas.

In the victorious operations carried out on 1 September of this year, the combatants of the ground forces and the other devotees of these operations who had managed to liberate parts of Karkheh Kur and annihilate and push back the enemy forces, inflicted the following losses and casualties on the Iraqi forces: the destruction of 12 tanks, 4 personnel carriers, and Katyusha missile launchers, with more than 200 dead.

The heroes of the gendarmerie crushed the enemy positions on one of the Ilam fronts, silenced the enemy's fire, destroyed some of their equipment and killed a number of their servicemen.

On the western Dezful fronts, the combatants of the ground forces opened fire on the enemy positions, stopped the movement of their armored columns and set fire to and destroyed one ammunition dump, two loaders and one mortar of the Iraqi forces. Also, in the Dasht-e 'Abbas area, they opened artillery and mortar fire on the positions and fortifications of the Iraqi forces and destroyed three tanks, five 130-mm guns, five enemy squad trenches and foxholes and killed a number of the mercenary Saddamists.

Yesterday the brave combatants of the air force bombed the positions and trenches of the aggressive Iraqi forces in the west of Ahvaz and set fire to the enemy positions. They inflicted considerable losses and casualties upon them.

On the Mahshahr-Abadan fronts, exchanges of artillery and heavy-weapon fire were continuing. In these exchanges of fire one personnel carrier, one ammunition dump and one heavy machinegun of the Iraqi forces were destroyed. On the Abadan fronts, enemy losses amounted to 17 squad trenches and foxholes, 3 heavy machinegun emplacements, 3 ammunition dumps, 5 observation posts and 4 missile-launcher trenches.

Sporadic exchanges of fire continued on the Khuninshahr and Darkhovin fronts. Yesterday the combatants of the police opened fire on the enemy positions on a front in the Abadan area. They destroyed four squad trenches and foxholes, one observation post of the Iraqi forces and killed or wounded a number of their servicemen.

Yesterday, as in the previous days, the city of Abadan came under the enemy's heavy-weapon fire. Losses were inflicted upon the residential areas and a number of beloved Abadan compatriots were martyred or wounded.

In the course of the battle of 1 September of this year 20 of the best combatants of the ground forces and 3 heroes of the gendarmerie achieved the lofty honor of martyrdom. May their souls rest in peace and may their memory be held dear.

624: Breakthrough Near Ahvaz

LD032250 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 3 Sep 81

[Communique 624 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The fierce and epic-making attack by the glorious combatants of the 92d Division of Ahvaz, with the assistance of the self-sacrificing Revolution Guards Corps and the enthusiastic combatants of martyr Chamran, with the support of the 16th Division, as well as the air force and airborne units, began at midnight last night, 2 September, on a front in the west of Ahvaz. Our attacks began after our artillery fire had totally engulfed the enemy positions in fire and smoke.

This glorious assault was launched on enemy positions which Saddam's forces had spent over 10 months fortifying with barbed wire, minefields, boobytraps and prefabricated concrete bunkers. They had also set up constant air and ground reconnaissance patrols to safeguard these defensive positions. The inwardly blind enemy, having erected all these obstacles and fortifications, also enjoyed the protection of natural obstacles such as several rivers and heights.

Enjoying such fortified defensive positions, the Iraqi forces never entertained the slightest notion that the time might come when they would lose them. Little did they know that they lacked the essential contributing factors necessary in war: faith and morale. The Islamic Republic of Iran's combatants, despite these fortified defensive positions, launched their valiant attack relying on God Almighty and on the light of faith emanating from the Koran, and during the hottest period of the season in Khuzestan, attacked the heart of the enemy and eventually, after 18 hours of armed fighting and hand-to-hand combat using grenades and bayonets, split the heart of the enemy and liberated the sacred positions in (Jaber Hamdan) which had been captured by the contaminated and deceived Saddam forces.

The liberation of these positions, God willing, will facilitate the recapturing of Bostan. The Joint Staff has announced that the enemy's losses and casualties during yesterday's fighting were as follows: 32 tanks and 8 armored personnel carriers were destroyed, 100 killed and 100 more Iraqi troops wounded. Moreover, in the course of these operations, 56 Iraqi officers, NCO's and soldiers were captured. Furthermore, in today's operations, in addition to destroying a number of tanks and armored personnel carriers, three enemy helicopters were also downed and an Iraqi ammunition depot set ablaze.

The Joint Staff expresses its appreciation for the sacrifices demonstrated by all personnel of the 92d Armored Division of Ahvaz, especially the 3d Armored Brigade and its powerful artillery personnel, and congratulates the imam of the nation and the Iranian people for this success achieved by the 92d Division.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

625: Iraqi Casualties

LD032210 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 3 Sep 81

[Communique 625 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Dear and combative Iranian compatriots: The self-sacrificing combatants of the 81st Armored Division, the self-sacrificing members of the Revolution Guards Corps and the devoted tribes in the western sector of the country, in the course of a series of successful operations today, 3 September, killed between 300-400 enemy troops after attacking his positions on the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab fronts and shelling the aggressive Iraqi positions and fortifications in this area. They also captured 100 Iraqis as prisoners of war. Our mighty forces also managed to capture about 70 pieces of heavy weaponry, including artillery and mortar launchers. Our forces also destroyed 12 Iraqi tanks. Further details will be made available in subsequent communiques released by the Joint Staff.

With the help of God Almighty, our combative forces are on the verge of pushing out the Iraqi aggressors along all western and southern fronts, thus cleansing our sacred soil from their presence. The Joint Staff of the Islamic Republic of Iran congratulates the imam of the nation and the dear compatriots for the impressive success of the combatants of the 81st Armored Division of Kermanshah, the brothers in the Revolution Guards Corps and the tribal fighters.

NVOI CALLS FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF AFGHAN ALLIANCE

TA032015 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1730 GMT 3 Sep 81

[Unattributed commentary: "U.S. Imperialism's Hostility Toward the Islamic Republic of Iran and Democratic Afghanistan"]

[Text] Dear compatriots: During these critical circumstances in our liberated homeland where the counterrevolution, remnants of the former regime, masked Savakists and the extreme leftists and rightists--inspired by the directives of the United States--are engaged in bloody conspiracies, defining Iran's friends and enemies, whether within or abroad, is one of the urgent tasks of revolutionary authorities.

In the international arena, undoubtedly one of the natural friends and allies of the Iranian nation's revolution and the Islamic Republic of Iran are the people of Afghanistan and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

Recently, the Government of democratic Afghanistan in a statement once again extended the hand of friendship toward our country, and suggested to the government of our Islamic Republic the holding of talks for resolving existing differences. The Iranian people expected and continue to expect revolutionary authorities to adopt a realistic attitude toward this proposal, and take the necessary steps toward reviving and expanding friendly relations and amity with democratic Afghanistan. Unfortunately, this demand of the people has still not been fulfilled and no measure has been taken by our country's officials in this connection. As regards Afghanistan, the policy of our Islamic Republic is precisely the same as the policy of dependent and puppet regimes, such as the regime of the traitor Ziaul Haq, whereas from the viewpoint of principles and in light of the popular and anti-imperialist content of the Iranian nation's revolution, the policy of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran toward Afghanistan should differ in every respect from the policy of Pakistan's puppet regime, whose leaders are linked by thousands of threads to world-devouring U.S. imperialism.

Afghanistan is a liberated, democratic, revolutionary and anti-imperialist country. In the case of this neighboring and Muslim country, U.S. imperialism is implementing the same hostile policy that it has adopted toward our own liberated homeland. Since both the Iranian and Afghan revolutions are popular and anti-imperialist, they have equally become the target of vindictive attacks by U.S. imperialism. In implementing plots and conspiracies, U.S. imperialism acts in the same manner toward Iran and Afghanistan. As in our country, in Afghanistan, too, the counterrevolutionaries, and especially the fugitive counterrevolutionaries abroad, are resorting to plots, subversion and terror against the revolutionary gains of the people of that country with the assistance of the reactionary regimes of the region and by the decree of U.S. imperialism. KEYHAN explicitly writes that many of these counterrevolutionary groupings are nurtured by the United States. Several of them enjoy the support of China, some of them are strongly supported by the feudalists and big landowners, and others are fighting with the hope of establishing a monarchy.

It is an undeniable fact that whatever U.S. imperialism implements in connection with our own liberated homeland, it also implements in respect to Afghanistan. The main and ultimate goal of U.S. imperialism is toppling the revolutionary systems in both liberated countries and establishing dependent regimes in these countries. Numerous documents and evidence indicate that the United States has established special bases in Pakistan which are operating under the command of U.S. experts for aggression and subversion against the popular and anti-imperialist revolutions of Iran and Afghanistan. In short, both Iran and Afghanistan are the same to U.S. imperialism and the reaction of the region in their plots and aggressions. All these indicate that in many respects there are numerous common aspects between Iran and Afghanistan, especially from the viewpoint of U.S. imperialism's hostility and vindictiveness. Therefore, these two countries and liberated nations should justly act in a united manner against the plots of imperialism and reaction.

Obviously, the recent statement by the democratic Government of Afghanistan has once again opened the way between the two countries for the start of negotiations and the settlement of outstanding problems, and subsequently for the establishment of a united, anti-imperialist and revolutionary front. Unfortunately, officials of our Islamic Republic have still not expressed any view regarding this peaceful document of the Government of Afghanistan. The just expectation of our homeland's people from revolutionary authorities is that the government undertake a review of its policy toward democratic Afghanistan, and that by adopting a realistic policy it will warmly grasp the hand of friendship extended toward our country by the Government of Afghanistan so that the feasibility of constructing an anti-imperialist and antireactionary alliance would become possible, thus foiling the Satanic plots and designs of imperialism and the reaction of the region.